

Minutes
Bluff City Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Meeting
March 7, 2023

Mayor Broyles called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Members present were Julie Venable, Sandra Madison, Carol Keith and Ben Adams

Heather Moritz was absent

Prayer was given by Mayor Jeff Broyles, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Police Chief Greg Depew

Mayor Broyles opened the floor for the following:

Recognition of Proclamations and Awards – None

Discussion / Action Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2023

Motion to approve was made by Alderman Adams. Second by Vice Mayor Keith. Vote went as follows Alderwoman Venable – Yes, Alderwoman Madison – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – Yes, Alderman Adams – Yes. Motion carried.

Public Comments

David Harmon voiced concern about the notice on the back of the water bills. Mr Harmon asked the Board Members to look at it. Mayor Broyles stated this will be covered in a minute.

Jerry Malone of 372 Smith Street stated he spoke to a man that was going to expand his business and told him that Mr Broyles had been really helpful to him. Mr Malone asked about having something put up at the museum with a list of all the Mayor's and the Police Chief's over the years. Mr Malone gave a rundown of items the museum has acquired.

Carolyn Payne of 4818 Bluff City Highway stated on the Agenda you are going to vote on comments before and after. I am going to propose tonight that you make it 5 minutes before and after. Mrs Payne stated I was of the understanding that the videos of the workshop sessions were going to be posted from here on out and it is still not on the web site. Mrs Payne stated hopefully you are going to give the status of where we are at with hiring a City Manager.

Bryan Hunt stated we have got to do something about the Lakeview Drive and Weaver Branch Road area dealing with speeding and drugs. Mr Hunt voiced concern on people in rental homes dealing drugs, stating we should make them move. Mr Hunt asked for speed bumps to be installed.

Stephen Seiferth of 339 Lakeview Drive asked if the lead and copper violation still going on. Mayor Broyles stated I will explain that in Mayors Comments.

Discussion / Action : Ordinance 2023-001: An ordinance amending the Bluff City Municipal Code Section 1-102 concerning the order of business of Board of Mayor and Aldermen Meetings

City Attorney Paul Frye explained that the only difference is we have gone back to the previous practice of the Board of allowing 2 sections of Citizens Comments, 3 minutes each. Mr Frye stated it is ready for first reading. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Keith. Second by Alderwoman Madison. Alderwoman Venable stated some of their time is taken up by giving their name and address. I agree that the 5 minutes would be better. Mayor Broyles stated this was discussed in a workshop and we are only returning to what we were at before we changed it. Mr Frye stated don't start their time until they start talking. Mayor Broyles stated I personally don't start the time until they start speaking. Mr Broyles stated is that a stipulation of your approval of this ordinance. Mrs Venable stated if it is done that way, because it wasn't before. With a motion and a second on the floor, vote went as follows Alderwoman Venable – Yes, Alderwoman Madison – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – Yes, Alderman Adams – Yes. Motion carried.

Discussion / Action: Quote from Hitchcock Memorials for the Well's Park Monument

Mayor Broyles presented the quote for a black granite monument to be placed at Wells Park. We got quotes from 3 vendors. Looking at the cost and lead time the awarded quote was Hitchcock Memorials. Mayor Broyles stated this has been discussed in a workshops. Mayor Broyles stated that with a 10% discount the cost would be \$8,839.80. The lead time for this project is 6 months. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Keith. Second by Alderwoman Venable. Vote went as follows Alderwoman Venable – Yes, Alderwoman Madison – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – Yes, Alderman Adams – Yes. Motion carried.

Report from Mayor and City Manager

Mayor Broyles stated that a representative for Mattern & Craig could not be here but he would read the report he got from them today stating the Main Street project is 99% complete and the Garage Pump Station is 90% complete. We have 2 grant applications, one for the water treatment plant improvements in the amount of \$806,100.00 and a second grant for \$398,300.00 to work with a sewer project.

Mayor Broyles stated let me speak to the violation notice on the back of the water bills. We received a violation letter from TDEC for an offense, nothing punitive, that occurred in the last quarter of 2021. What occurred was this, we are required to test for lead and copper in the water system. That testing was conducted and it came out favorably, but unfortunately we as a town did not report this to the public properly. The tests were fine, but we are required to notify the public. The violation does not include a fine. All it is saying is that you did not tell the public that you did this testing in the proper manner. The proper manner is this, the public must be notified per utility bills or a letter distributed to the public. We can not go back to January of 2021. The only thing we can do is notify you now. What will happen is a letter will be sent stating back in 2021 the test

was done and **there were no findings**. Your water was fine. We however did not follow the process of notifying the public. That's all it is. We moved quickly to get this out to you after we received this letter from TDEC. Mayor Broyles stated I asked TDEC is there any other violations out there that we as a Board do not know about. I will have that information soon. I will share it with this administration and this Board. It is my intent if we have violations to take that score back to zero. A member of the audience stated so you are saying it was just a reporting error. Mayor Broyles stated that is all it was. When we received it, we responded immediately. Once I received the violation, it was my duty to immediately inform you and the best and the fastest way was to have it printed on the water bills. We will be following up with a letter reviewed by council and the Board and then published to you. It was not because your water was bad, we just didn't do the report on time.

Mayor Broyles stated the Board and I will be going into two strategic comprehensive plan that you will be hearing about. We will have several events which have not been decided upon tentative this year.

Report from Town Attorney Paul Frye – No report

Discussion / Action: Financial Report – Sharon Greene, CMFO

Ms Greene reported the following fund balances as of January 31, 2023 : General Fund - \$2,341,207.00, Sanitation Fund - \$24,316.00, Special Police Fund- \$924.00, Debt Service Fund- \$152,696.00, Sinking Fund - \$3,094.00, Water / Sewer Fund – \$839,430.00. Motion to approve was made by Alderman Adams. Second by Alderwoman Madison. Vote went as follows Alderwoman Venable – Yes, Alderwoman Madison – Yes, Vice Mayor Keith – Yes, Alderman Adams – Yes. Motion carried.

Report from Chief of Police - Greg Depew

Chief Depew presented the monthly report for February, 2023. (SEE ATTACHED)

Chief Depew stated our Watson System is working well making traffic stops from 15 to 17 minutes down to 4 to 6 minutes.

Chief Depew stated everything is going great.

Report from Public Works Supervisor – Allen Moultrie

Mr Moultrie presented the monthly report for February, 2023. (SEE ATTACHED)

Mr Moultrie stated the water plant is operating normally. We are continuing to repair leaks in the system. We had no overflows in the sewer department. We are working hard to maintain brush pickup.

Mr Moultrie stated when it comes down to the lead and copper testing, all of it came back as normal. The issues we had was reporting it to the citizens where those samples were taken. The drinking water throughout town is great. We just recently got the notice. Vice Mayor Keith stated so there is no concern. Mr Moultrie stated no concern.

Report from Sullivan County Commissioners -- None present

Board Comments

Alderwoman Venable suggested the photo of Former Mayor Irene Wells should be put in the area where people pay their water bills. Ms Venable stated the videos of the meetings should be posted within 2 to 3 days afterwards. I have been told it is sometimes longer than that. Ms Venable voiced concern as to whether the City Manager could fire the salaried people. Mayor Broyles stated it is in the Charter. Mr Frye stated if anyone has a question call me.

Alderwoman Madison thanked everyone for coming.

Vice Mayor Keith stated I will continue to be a true honest force for the people and hear you when you speak. We did get the videos posted. We are moving forward.

Alderman Adams thanked everyone for coming. Mr Adams thanked them for bringing up the issues on Lakeview Drive as it need to be addressed. Mr Adams stated I hope everybody recognizes the progress on the Water System.

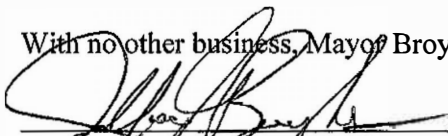
Old Business

Vice Mayor Keith stated we are going to continue to move forward concerning City Manager, but we still have quite a bit to do.

New Business


Alderwoman Venable stated yesterday I came and asked if I could have the minutes to the last Board meeting and was told Jeff said he did not have to send them out at all. Mayor Broyles stated there was a misunderstanding. The Agenda must go to them 3 days in advance of the meeting. We were finalizing the minutes on Friday and they were sent as quickly as they could be to you. We are not required to send them 3 days prior. We try to do that but we had some employee absences and did not have them ready until Friday and you received them Monday.

With no other business, Mayor Broyles adjourned the meeting at 6:53 p.m.



Jeff Broyles, Mayor / City Manager

Attest this 7th day of March, 2023



Sharon Greene, Recorder / CMFO



Bluff City Police Department

MONTHLY REPORT



2023	February
Year	Month

NUMBER OF:	CITY	PINEY	COUNTY	TOTAL
CALLS FOR ASSISTANT(S)	88	102		190
ISSUED CITATION(S)	72	76		148
WARNING CITATION(S)	31	28	0	59
PATROLED MILE(S)	2872	3125	0	5997
ARREST(S)	15	8	0	23
OFFENSE REPORT(S)	10	8	0	18
ALARM(S)	5	8	5	18
ACCIDENTS	8	5	0	13
ANIMAL CALL(S)	2	0	0	2
MSD REPORT(S)	18	22	0	40
FUNERAL ESCORT(S)	2	0	0	2
DOMESTIC ASSAULT(S)	3	1	0	4
VEHICLE SEIZURE(S)	0	0	0	0
MISSING PERSON(S)	0	0	0	0
D.U.I.(S)	2	1	0	3
DRUG VIOLATION(S)	1	2	0	3
USE OF FORCE REPORT(S)	0	0	0	0

Approved by: Chief Depew

3/1/2023

CITY OF BLUFF CITY
Water Plant & Distribution System
Board of Mayor and Alderman Monthly
Report for February 2023

Water Plant:

The Water plant is operating normally pumping an average of 223 thousand gallons per day. The water plant was shutdown on February 9th during water tank maintenance. Once maintenance was completed the water treatment plant was placed back into service to fill storage tank.

Distribution System:

We are continuing to repair leaks in our distribution system as they show. We installed 1 tap and repaired 2 damaged setters during the month of February. During tank maintenance we purchased water from Bristol Bluff. Water tank will be placed back into service upon negative bacteriological testing and meeting the required holding time.

Sewer Department:

Sewer Department is operating well with there being no overflows in the month of February. We did get the high well level alarm during the last rain event but that did not result into an overflow.

Streets Department:

City workers are working hard maintaining the brush pickup throughout town. Our designated day for brush pick up is on Wednesday and Thursday, with work orders being top priority.

If you have any questions please call City Hall at 538-7144. Thank you.

Allen Moultrie
Public Work Supervisor